

## CLAIMS

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AI

1. Method of tracking communications usage time comprising:  
counting time increments in response to a call;  
determining a call count based on time increments; and  
modifying the call count based on calling plan parameters.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising;  
adding the modified call count; and  
determining an accumulated call count.
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising;  
subtracting the modified call count from a time ration; and  
determining a remaining call time.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein modifying the call count comprises  
rounding the call count.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein modifying the call count comprises  
subtracting an initial open connection time from the call count.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein modifying the call count comprises  
discounting an incoming call.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein modifying the call count comprises  
discounting a nighttime call.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein modifying the call count comprises  
discounting a weekend call.

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9. The method of claim 1 further comprising;  
providing a special usage parameter;  
calculating a special call count based on the special usage  
parameter and the modified call count.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein the special usage parameter  
comprises a long distance parameter, and the special call count comprises a  
long distance usage count.
11. The method of claim 9 wherein the special usage parameter  
comprises a local distance parameter, and the special call count comprises a  
local distance usage count.
12. The method of claim 9 wherein the special usage parameter  
comprises a nighttime usage parameter, and the special call count comprises a  
nighttime usage count.
13. The method of claim 9 wherein the special usage parameter  
comprises a weekend usage parameter, and the special call count comprises a  
weekend usage count.
14. The method of claim 9 wherein the special usage parameter  
comprises a peak usage parameter, and the special call count comprises a peak  
usage count.

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15. The method of claim 9 wherein the special usage parameter comprises an off-peak usage parameter, and the special call count comprises an off-peak usage count.

16. A computer usable medium including a program for tracking communications usage time comprising:  
computer readable program code for counting time increments in response to a call;  
computer readable program code for determining a call count based on time increments; and  
computer readable program code for modifying the call count based on calling plan parameters.

17. The computer usable medium of claim 16 further comprising;  
computer readable program code for adding the modified call count; and  
computer readable program code for determining an accumulated call count.

18. The computer usable medium of claim 16 further comprising;  
computer readable program code for subtracting the modified call count from a time ration; and  
computer readable program code for determining a remaining call time.

19. The computer usable medium of claim 16 wherein modifying the call count comprises rounding the call count.

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20. The computer usable medium of claim 16 wherein modifying the call count comprises subtracting an initial open connection time from the call count.

21. The computer usable medium of claim 16 wherein modifying the call count comprises discounting an incoming call.

22. The computer usable medium of claim 16 wherein modifying the call count comprises discounting a nighttime call.

23. The computer usable medium of claim 16 wherein modifying the call count comprises discounting a weekend call.

24. The computer usable medium of claim 16 further comprising;  
computer readable program code for providing a special usage parameter;  
computer readable program code for calculating a special call count based on the special usage parameter and the modified call count.

25. The computer usable medium of claim 24 wherein the special usage parameter comprises a long distance parameter, and the special call count comprises a long distance usage count.

26. The computer usable medium of claim 24 wherein the special usage parameter comprises a local distance parameter, and the special call count comprises a local distance usage count.

27. The computer usable medium of claim 24 wherein the special usage parameter comprises a nighttime usage parameter, and the special call count comprises a nighttime usage count.

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28. The computer usable medium of claim 24 wherein the special usage parameter comprises a weekend usage parameter, and the special call count comprises a weekend usage count.

29. The computer usable medium of claim 24 wherein the special usage parameter comprises a peak usage parameter, and the special call count comprises a peak usage count.

30. The computer usable medium of claim 24 wherein the special usage parameter comprises an off-peak usage parameter, and the special call count comprises an off-peak usage count.

31. A communications usage time tracking system comprising:  
means for counting time increments in response to a call;  
means for determining a call count based on time increments; and  
means for modifying the call count based on calling plan parameters.

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